

Account: U.S. Department of Transportation  
Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Transit

Address of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Transit, One Penn Plaza, East Newark, NJ 07105

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,021,250 in funding for the Lakewood Township shuttle service project. This shuttle service would efficiently move people in this growing and congested area of Central New Jersey. The funding would be used to purchase additional shuttle buses, provide sheltered bus stops, establish loading and drop-off zones, provide parking for mass transit vehicles, and parking for private vehicles.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: U.S. Department of Transportation  
FTA New Starts

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Transit

Address of Requesting Entity: New Jersey Transit, One Penn Plaza, East Newark, NJ 07105

Description of Request: I have secured \$534,375 in funding for the MOM Line for the Design Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) stage. The MOM line would provide Central New Jersey residents with access to Northern New Jersey and New York City.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: U.S. Department of Transportation  
Bus and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Arc of Mercer County

Address of Requesting Entity: The Arc of Mercer County, 180 Ewingville Road, Ewing, NJ 08638

Description of Request: I have secured \$95,000 in funding for the Arc of Mercer County to provide cost effective transportation services for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens in the Mercer County area. This service is needed to supplement existing county and state services and provide efficiency through coordinated efforts. The Arc is also contributing to this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: Housing and Urban Development  
Department Economic Development Initiative Program

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Special Children's Center

Address of Requesting Entity: The Special Children's Center, Lakewood Township Municipal Building, 231 Third Street, Lakewood, NJ 08701.

Description of Request: I have secured \$142,500 in funding for the Special Children's Center. The funding would be used to help defer the costs of constructing a new building for the Special Children's Center. The Township of Lakewood has contributed toward the project and there have been private donations.

MEDICAL DEVICE SAFETY ACT OF  
2009

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Medical Device Safety Act of 2009. This legislation was introduced today, and I'm proud to be an original cosponsor.

The Medical Device Safety Act of 2009 is needed to ensure that every American patient has the ability to hold manufacturers of defective medical devices accountable for injuries and deaths caused by unsafe products. It would also prevent these manufacturers from receiving total immunity from any claims simply by virtue of receiving a Food and Drug Administration device approval. This bill clarifies the intention of Congress to keep American patients safe by maintaining complementary systems to protect consumers through the FDA and American courts.

The need for this legislation was made evident in the Supreme Court's flawed decision in Riegel v. Medtronic, which completely ignored Congressional intent regarding the ability of injured patients to hold medical device manufacturers accountable for their injuries. This bill will restore Congress's original intent to allow injured patients to recover from their injuries caused by manufacturers of defective and dangerous medical devices.

It's important for Congress to promptly clarify its intent, because these types of issues continue to come up in courts around the country. Last Congress, I was proud to participate in a hearing in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform which looked deeper into these types of issues. The medical safety experts agree that patient safety is compromised when we allow the FDA to have the final say on device safety. Strong state laws are critical to maintaining accountability for device manufacturers, and allowing the FDA to pre-empt these state laws is a surefire way to place sales over safety and profits over people.

The civil justice system and the federal regulatory system were always meant to complement each other. Both are necessary to adequately protect Americans. The FDA simply cannot do it alone, and we see examples of this all the time, from pacemakers to peanuts. The agency is understaffed and underfunded, and I support additional funding to help this critical agency. However, making the FDA the "court of last resort" on issues of life and death is a violation of the Bill of Rights and ignores over 200 years of Common Law precedents. This is just one more reason why Congress must pass the Medical Device Safety Act of 2009 to restore the balance between the civil justice system and the federal regulatory system that Congress intended when it passed the Medical Device Amendments of 1976.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber during the evening of Monday, February 23, 2009. As a result, I was unable to cast my vote on rollcall No. 73, which occurred on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 44, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea," and also ask that the record reflect my strong support for the enactment of H.R. 44 and the fact that I am an original cosponsor of this bill which was reintroduced by our colleague from Guam, Ms. BORDALLO, on January 6, 2009.

HONORING ELIZABETH  
LITTLEFIELDS' SELFLESS ACT

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to Elizabeth Littlefield, a hairdresser from Marana, Arizona. Ms. Littlefield has set an inspiring example for all Americans with one selfless act—the donation of one of her kidneys. It was not to a loved one or longtime friend that Littlefield made this generous donation, but to a customer whom she had known only a short time.

Ms. Littlefield's donated kidney went to Dale Charnick. Not long after Ms. Charnick became a customer of Ms. Littlefield's salon in 2006, both of her kidneys began shutting down. Upon learning of her customer's plight, Littlefield made the surprise offer that saved Ms. Charnick's life. "I have two good kidneys," Ms. Littlefield said. "You can have one of mine."

Now, as a result of Ms. Littlefield's donation, Ms. Charnick is on the road to a strong recovery. Ms. Littlefield's selfless act reminds us in a dramatic way what it means to help a person in need.

I also want to commend the extraordinary medical skills of the well-trained health care professionals at Tucson's University Medical Center for their role in giving Ms. Charnick's a new lease on life.

My constituents in Southern Arizona are indeed fortunate to have a new team of nationally recognized transplant experts in our community. This team includes: abdominal transplant chief Dr. Rainer Gruessner; nephrology chief Dr. Bruce Kaplan, who is also a deputy editor of the American Journal of Transplantation; vice chief of abdominal transplantation Dr. John Renz; Dr. Thomas Boyer, who is director of the Arizona Liver Institute; and Dr. Khalid Khan, director of the UA's Pediatric Liver and Intestinal Transplantation Program.